



Marker on Emigration Canyon Road and U-65 shows motorists that three historic pioneer trails also used the same route.

New signs mark sites of historic trails

Many Utah roads follow routes used by pioneers, Pony Express.

By Zack Van Eyck
Deseret News staff writer

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Long before they became paved highways, many of Utah's roads were crude trails blazed by pioneers and Pony Express riders.

Motorists heading to and from Salt Lake City may be unaware they often travel nearly the same routes taken by Utah's Mormon settlers, migrants headed to California or horsemen bent on delivering mail and money to early residents of the West.

Their awareness is about to be heightened.

Utah Department of Transportation crews are busy this week installing 49 historic markers throughout the northern part of the state. The "auto tour route" signs will let travelers know they are driving in or near the path of the Mormon Pioneer Trail, two branches of the California Trail and the Pony Express Trail.

UDOT and the National Park Service are splitting the \$10,000 cost of making and posting the signs. The Utah project is part of a larger effort by the Park Service to coordinate historic trail identification in 13 states.

Historic trail markers already exist in several states, but the Utah signs are the

first to feature more than one trail per sign, recognizing that some trails shared roughly the same alignments.

Twenty-seven of the signs feature logos of the Mormon Pioneer, California and Pony Express trails. They are being placed between the Wyoming border and Salt Lake City along I-80, I-84, U-65 and Emigration Canyon Road along a corridor the three trails shared.

Twelve signs sport the California and Pony Express trail logos and will be positioned along U-201 and I-80 to Wendover, although the Hastings branch of the California Trail and the Pony Express Trail were actually 40 or more miles to the south.

Ten signs featuring the California Trail logo will be seen between Farmington and Snowville on I-15 and I-84. The Salt Lake cutoff of the California Trail was located just to the east of those highways.

Jere Krakow, superintendent of the Park Service's Salt Lake-based Long Distance Trail Office, said the signs are aimed at confirming to motorists that they are traveling along the path of the various historic trails that helped shape the settlement of the Western United States.

"We've tried to come up with a system that will make drivers aware of the topography and the locations that these people took and yet won't compete with the signing that is necessary for driving safety," said Jim Naegle, a traffic engineer in charge of the historic trail marking



project for UDOT.

"We really have to be conscious about what we put up on the highway because we can't just put anything up there. We've been working for over a year to come up with these signs."

All the signs should be in place by the end of the week, Naegle said.

The Park Service now will turn its attention to placing multi-trail historic signs in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, California, Oregon and Washington. Krakow said that could take as long as a decade.

faith on property taxes

lobbyist after lobbyist for businesses asked Wednesday not to delay law, others told commissioners that homeowners have to pay more. The large businesses are 50 percent, even 75 percent taxes this year. Several gravel companies are paying 100 percent of their

owners and small businesses shouldn't be expected to pay as much as big businesses are paying more than half. The House Majority Whip John Valentine, R-Utah, is a tax attorney.

The new law says 100 percent of disputed taxes owed by businesses who are assessed by the county must be escrowed. The law says local governments, county officials. That's what county officials struggled to get the taxes were collected.

For counties where mines, railroads make up a large part of the tax base, big refunds can be

devastating, a number of county officials said at Wednesday's hearings.

But as testimony and debate in the committee showed, counties can impose special "judgment levies" on all county property owners to come up with the money. Most counties don't do that. As Emery County Assessor Jim Fauver said: "Such (judgment levies) are politically difficult."

In fact, a few committee members received a clear message Wednesday: Local county officials like the escrow law because when taxes go up in November they can blame the Legislature.

The new law "says the Legislature did it," said Sen. Howard Stephenson, R-Draper, who is also president of the Utah Taxpayers Association. Local officials don't have to turn to the judgment levy "and take the heat for raising taxes," charged Stephenson.

Stephenson and others also questioned the need to escrow 100 percent of disputed taxes. The law says after disputed taxes have been resolved, the final taxes owed the county or school district go to those entities and all property owners' taxes are reduced accordingly.

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Historically, between 25 percent and 26 percent of multicounty businesses' disputed taxes are ultimately ordered returned to the businesses. Stephenson worries that if 100 percent of the disputed taxes are placed into an escrow account, and the big-business taxpayer finally gets 25 percent back, counties and school districts won't lower tax rates the next year to let the other 75 percent flow back to all county taxpayers.

While it is true county and school officials will have to go through Truth in Taxation public hearings to keep any of the 75 percent, they could still do so and tell taxpayers that taxes weren't going up.

Greg Fredde, vice president of the taxpayers association, said in the past, local officials have held the mandatory Truth in Taxation hearings and said: "We aren't raising your tax rates." That is correct, but they also don't say that taxes would go down if nothing was done, Fredde said.

A controversial Tax Commission decision on intangible property assessments of multicounty businesses brings the automatic tax increase to a head this year.

Property tax change ON AVERAGE HOME

COUNTY	PROBABLE NET DOLLAR CHANGE	PERCENT INCREASE
Beaver	44.17	14.3
Box Elder	55.05	9.8
Cache	16.12	2.3
Carbon	69.88	15.2
Daggett	49.90	24.1
Davis	19.33	1.8
Duchesne	41.64	9.0
Emery	52.94	14.3
Garfield	17.44	4.7
Grand	90.96	11.4
Iron	46.45	6.2
Juab	111.22	17.9
Kane	9.34	2.2
Millard	42.35	14.2
Morgan	139.94	14.3
Plute	20.57	7.8
Rich	39.87	11.7
Salt Lake	28.80	2.5
San Juan	49.53	8.4
Sanpete	15.79	3.1
Sevier	40.22	9.1
Summit	138.85	9.5
Tooele	81.84	12.7
Utah	63.97	13.6
Utah	17.11	2.1
Wasatch	26.45	2.9
Washington	13.99	1.8
Wayne	4.69	1.9
Weber	21.10	2.3
STATEWIDE AVG.	47.22	7.6

Source: State Tax Commission

and James, Provo, boy, June 29.
W, Angela, Provo, boy, June 30.
and Donald, Salem, girl, June 26.
raci and Laramie, Santaquin, girl,
and Sheldon, Spanish Fork, boy,
fer and Stuart, Springville, boy,
nnifer and Gordon, Provo, boy,
ndle and Matt, Provo, boy, June
y and Chad, Payson, girl, June
Douglas, Spanish Fork, boy,
een and Alan, Payson, girl, July 4.
and Greg, Orem, girl, June 22.
ffany and Val, Provo, boy, June
Michelle and Ryan, Provo, girl, June
keri and Kert, Spanish Fork, boy,
ey and Jonathan, Provo, boy, June
itnee and Jeremy, Spanish Fork,

boy, June 30.
MULLIN, Tracey and Robbin, Payson, boy, June 23.
MURDOCK, Annie and Greg, Orem, boy, July 3.
OTTENSEN, Amy and John, Spanish Fork, girl, June 29.
PHILLIPSEN, Margarita and Todney, Delta, girl, June 26.
RANDALL, Alayne and Neal, ElkrIDGE, girl, June 26.
RAY, Yoho and Mike, Provo, boy, June 24.
RIDDLE, Sandra and David, Provo, girl, July 1.
SHORT, Janae, Spanish Fork, girl, June 27.
SHULZ, Lori and Jeff, Pleasant Grove, boy, June 24.
SMILEY, Christina and John, Spanish Fork, boy, June 22.
SPENCER, Kathi and Jerald, Springville, boy, July 2.
TOPHAM, Mandy, Spanish Fork, girl, June 28.
TURPIN, Michelle and Michael, Provo, girl, June 22.
URQUIAGER, Lauren and Marcos, Spanish Fork, boy, June 25.
WIGHTMAN, Jaci and Greg, Payson, boy, June 30.
ZOHRT, Janna and Alan, Orem, girl, June 30.

Orem Community Hospital—
ABEL, Sherron and Brent, Provo, boy, July 6.
BAILEY, Laura and Alan, Orem, boy, June 30.
BAUM, Jamie and Eric, Springville, boy, July 1.
BRISCOE, Jennifer and Jason, Layton, boy, July 2.
CORALLO, Marissa and Russell, Orem, girl, July 5.
CRABTREE, Denise and Robert, Orem, girl, July 7.
DAWSON, Laura and Michael, Provo, boy, July 1.
EGGETT, Karen and Travis, Springville, girl, July 5.
ELLSWORTH, Barbara and Matthew, Provo, boy, July 5.
GRIFFITH, Jennifer, and **PIERCE**, Justin, Provo, girl, July 5.
HOOKE, Kristen and Kyle, Heber City, girl, July 7.
HOWARD, Andrea and Rony, Provo, girl, July 5.
JONES, Michelle and James, Orem, boy, July 2.
LAMOREAUX, Jeni and Jeff, Orem, girl, July 2.
PETERSON, Kimberly and Trent, Springville, boy, July 2.
PICKETT, Jennifer and Bruce, Provo, girl, June 30.
SHOEMAKER, Tiani and Paul, Provo, boy, July 2.

SMURTHWAITE, Elizabeth and Jonathan, Provo, girl, July 3.
SOFTLY, Kimberly and Daniel, Provo, girl, July 2.
STEVENS, Sarah, and **McKINNEY**, Brandon, Richfield, girl, July 6.
WOODMANSEE, Julianne and Shawn, Spanish Fork, boy, July 2.

Pioneer Valley Hospital—
HOAG, Kimberly and Rand, West Valley City, boy, July 10.

Salt Lake Regional Medical Center—
BROOKS, Jennifer and Michael, Bountiful, boy, July 7.
DEAN, Jenie and Cody, Tooele, girl, July 7.
GARCIA, Christina, Salt Lake City, boy, July 7.
REED, Heidi and Brent, Salt Lake City, girl, July 8.
ROGERS, Melissa and Joey, Kearns, boy, July 6.
WILKINSON, Donna and David, Layton, boy, July 8.

University Birth Center—
NICKELL, Lisa and Ken, West Valley City, girl, July 9.

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Frank Gertino

Frank Gertino passed away July 9, 1997 at his home in Salt Lake City surrounded by his family.

He was born October 19, 1925 in Salt Lake City to John and Margaret McClachlin Gertino. Married Joann Bissell July 4, 1949 in Las Vegas, Nev. Served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Worked as an electrician for 38 years. Owner of FS & J Electric and was well respected in his field. He loved travel-



Walter Karl Burleigh

Walter Karl Burleigh, age 46, of Provo, died July 9, 1997, from injuries in a car accident.

Born April 17, 1951 in Needles, CA, to Alexander and Stella Burleigh, Karl was raised by Daniel and Frances Moloney in Whittier, CA. In 1976, he married Mary Carter; she was killed in the car crash with their grand daughter Cheyanne. Survived by his children: David (21), Daniel



Stella V. Thacker

VERNAL—On Tuesday, July 8, 1997, Stella Vernal Thacker died peacefully at home after a long, productive life and a relatively short illness.

Mrs. Thacker, a lifelong resident of Vernal and Ashley Valley was born April 2, 1901. She lived in Maeser and Vernal all her 96 years except for one year when she attended Brigham Young Academy in Provo to obtain her teach-

